

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-20 CU-04 VO-03 SCA-01

DRC-01 /099 W

----- 012683

P R 022121Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6343

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1003

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB TD

SUBJECT: NOMINEES FOR AIFLD LABOR ECONOMICS COURSE

REF: A. BRIDGETOWN 774; B. POS 296; C. POS A-32 DTD MAY 18,
1973; D. POS A-31

1. REF A RECEIVED PORT OF SPAIN ON MAY 1 REQUESTED CT CLEARANCE FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NOMINEES FOR LABOR COURSE. ON MAY 2, ANTHONY PRECILLA, ONE OF THE TWO LISTED NOMINEES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REQUESTED A VISA FROM THE EMBASSY PRESENTING AN INVITATION LETTER FOR THE COURSE FROM AIFLD/W SIGNED BY WILLIAM A. DOUGLAS ON APRIL 26 AND DSP-66 ALSO SIGNED BY DOUGLAS AND DATED APRIL 24. AIFLD/W APPARENTLY INTENDS TO BRING THE TWO CANDIDATES TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT OBTAINING THE CT CLAIRANCE ASKED FOR IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE.

2. WITHOUT AGAIN GOING INTO THE REASONS THAT HAVE MADE AIFLD A SENSITIVE SUBJECT HERE, WHICH HAVE BEEN FULLY REPORTED IN MANY MESSAGES, MOST RECENTLY IN REF B, WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FROM AMONG THE MANY COMPETING UNIONS IN THE COUNTRY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US NATIONAL INTEREST IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. PRECILLA IS A MEMBER OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY STAFF ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS REORGANIZED LAST YEAR, LARGELY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF SENATOR BASDEO PANDAY (REPORTED ON PAGE 2 OF REF C).

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SENATOR PANDAY HAS A RECORD AS A RADICAL LEFT-WING POLITICIAN AND

UNIONIST AND IS PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN LITIGATION BECAUSE OF HIS ALLEGED ILLEGAL CAPTURE OF CONTROL OF THE ALL TRINIDAD SUGAR ESTATES AND FACTORIES WORKERS TRADE UNION (REF D). WHILE THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THERE MAY BE POSITIVE BENEFITS TO OFFERING TRAINING TO UNION MEMBERS ALLIED WITH PANDAY AT THIS TIME, IT IS NOT A DECISION THAT SHOULD BE MADE WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THESE FACTS.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LABOR CONGRESS TO DETERMINE HOW THE SELECTION WAS MADE. THE STAFF ASSOCIATION APPEARS TO HAVE RECENTLY JOINED THE TTLC. THE EMBASSY WILL HOLD UP PROCESSING THE VISA APPLICATION UNTIL WE CAN FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON REASON THAT AIFLD/W WENT AHEAD WITH INVITATIONS WITHOUT EMBASSY CLEARANCE, AND THE REASONING BEHIND SELECTION OF A PANDAY PROTEGE.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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